GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:60
ANSWERED ON:25.07.2001
TALIBAN DECREE
JAGMEET SINGH BRAR;RAMDAS ATHAWALE

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Taliban Regime in Afghanistan has issued a decree asking Hindus living there to identify themselves by wearing yellow cloth and follow Shariat or face prosecution;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether as per decree Hindu and Muslims cannot live in the same house; and

(d) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto and the steps taken to safeguard the religious and social freedom of Hindus living in Afghanistan?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH)

(a) - (d) A statement is placed on the Table of the House.

Statement referred to in Parts (a) - (d) of the answer to Lok Sabha Starred Question No. 60 To be answered on 25.07.2001

(a) - (d)
(i) Government has seen credible reports that the Taliban have issued a decree prescribing wearing of distinctive clothing and distinguishing symbols by Afghan Hindus and Sikhs. The decree seeks to impose new restrictions on Afghan Hindus and Sikhs. Afghan Hindu males have been debarred from wearing a salwar kameez or a white turban. They have been directed to wear a black cap and put a red tilak as a identification mark. Hindu women too have been asked to drape themselves fully in a yellow cloth and wear an iron necklace whenever they move out of their homes. All Hindus are also required to display a yellow flag on their houses. Muslims and Hindus have been debarred from residing in the same house.

(ii) Government has taken a very serious view of the Taliban decree. We have deplored and condemned the decree, which patently discriminates against minorities.

(iii) The Taliban decree is further evidence of the backward and obscurantist ideological underpinnings of the group. Taliban attempts to justify such orders on religious grounds are also reprehensible. Taliban`s edict justifies the action that the international community has taken in imposing sanctions on the Taliban through resolutions such as UNSCR-1333.

(iv) Government has also raised the issue of Taliban`s decree in its interaction with members of the international community, bilaterally as well as in the UN. Consequently, there has been widespread condemnation by the international community of the Taliban`s decree, including from the UN Secretary General, European Union and the US.